MARVEL

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LGY#219

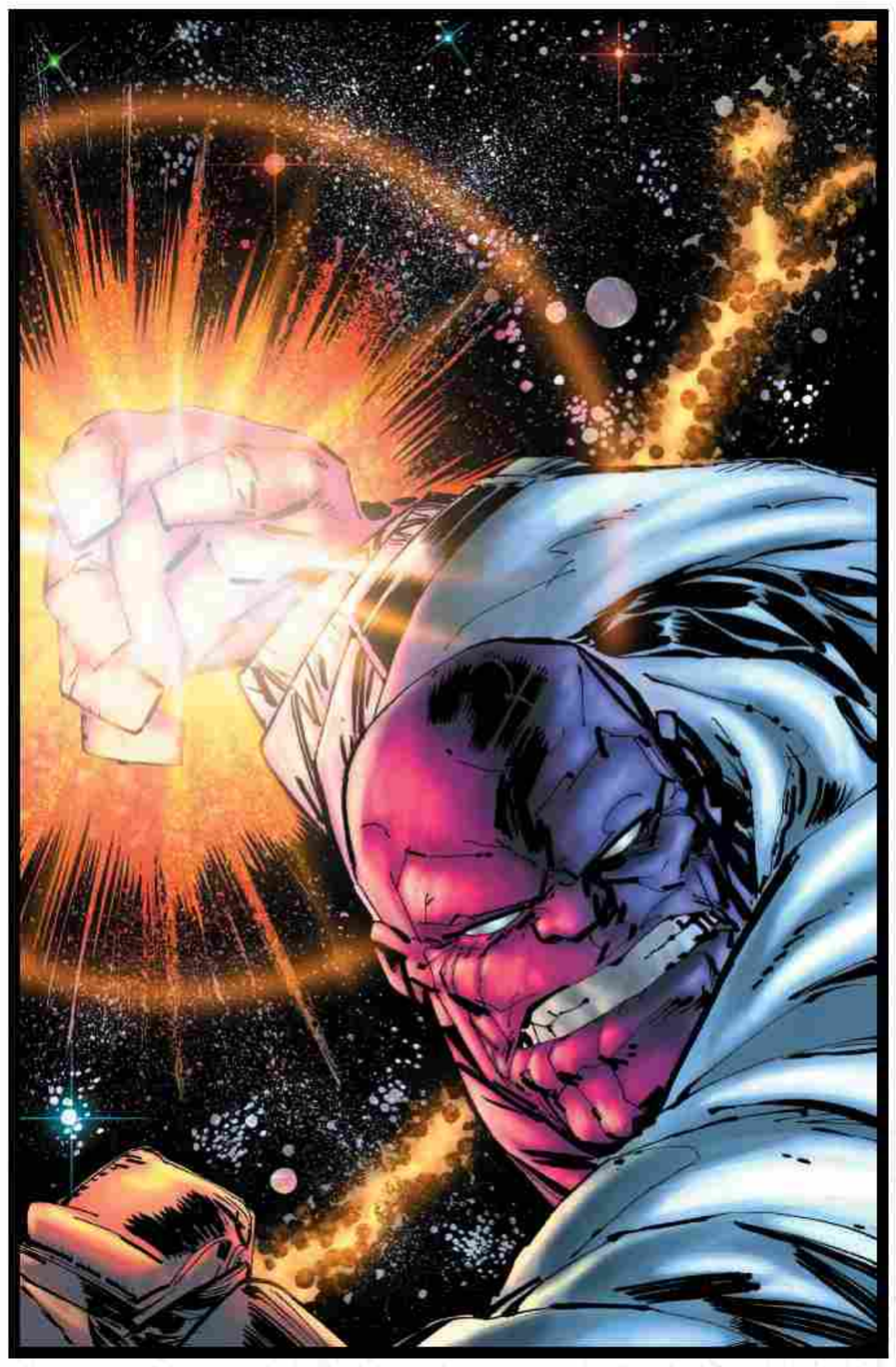
EWING
ALLEN
CHATER
YEUNG
ABURTOV

BLACK PANTHER

MARVEL REMEMBERS

Keith Giffen

1952 - 2023



Marvel Comics pays tribute to writer and artist Keith Giffen. The co-creator of Rocket Raccoon, Giffen wrote the *Annihilation* event series and a sequel spin-off *Annihilation: Conquest – Star-Lord*, which would pave the way for a Guardians of the Galaxy revival. His first published artwork appeared in "The Sword in the Star" featured in *Marvel Preview*, which included Rocket's first appearance. He moved into more mainstream titles with *Defenders*, penciling the infamous non-team during some of its most nontraditional storylines. Giffen had a strong body of work at DC Comics, with *Legion of Super-Heroes*, *Justice League* and his irreverent creations Ambush Bug and Lobo. Our thoughts are with his fans, family, friends and loved ones.

WAKANDA RECENTLY TRANSITIONED FROM A MONARCHY TO A PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY. IN THE UNREST THAT FOLLOWED, THE PRIME MINISTER EXILED T'CHALLA TO BRING PEACE TO WAKANDA. BUT EVEN IF HE IS NO LONGER KING, T'CHALLA WILL ALWAYS BE THE BLACK PANTHER. AND THE BLACK PANTHER WILL ALWAYS SERVE WAKANDA.

BY DAY, T'CHALLA DISGUISES HIMSELF AS A DISHWASHER NAMED IZE TO LEARN MORE OF BIRNIN T'CHAKA, AND BY NIGHT, HE PROTECTS THAT CITY AS THE BLACK PANTHER—BUT THAT HAS BECOME MORE CHALLENGING OF LATE AS A GANG WAR SPREADS ACROSS THE CITY AND A WAVE OF DISAPPEARANCES CAUSES PANIC AMONG ITS CITIZENS. WITH THE HELP OF THE MASTER THIEF KNOWN AS BEISA, T'CHALLA LEARNED THE DISAPPEARANCES ARE CONNECTED TO BABA NKISU, HEAD OF THE NKISU CRIME FAMILY. HE ARRIVED AT NKISU'S COMPOUND TO CONFRONT THE CRIME BOSS, BUT A DARK SPIRIT CALLED KIVU'MA GOT TO NKISU FIRST...

BLACK PANTHER

REIGN AT DUSK PART 7

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PENCILERS

CRAIG YEUNG AND MACK CHATER
INKERS

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EDITOR IN CHIEF

BLACK PANTHER CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

KIVU'MA KIVU'MA KIVU'MA KIVU'MA KIVU'MA--

NO SIGNS OF ABNORMAL FRONTAL-LOBE ACTIVITY...

BABA NKISU. COME BACK, BABA. I NEED TO TALK TO YOU. I NEED--

KIVU'MA KIVU'MA KIVU'MA KIVU'MA KIVU'MA--

STAY WITH ME!

HISSSSSS

WHAT--?

BANG

GET THE HELL AWAY FROM MY *FATHER.*

IF YOU STAY CALM, I MAY BE ABLE TO *HELP* HIM.

I SAID GET AWAY!

KIVU... KIV...

WHAT? BABA, IT'S ME, *ALIINYA*. BABA, WHAT ARE YOU--?

BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

NO! *NO!*

YOU DID THIS!

STOP IT!

WHAT DO WE *PAY* YOU FOR, YOU IGNORANT SWINE? MY FATHER'S *MURDERER* STANDS BEFORE YOU. *SHOOT* HIM!

MISS, IT'S-- IT'S THE *BLACK PANTHER*.

I SAID *SHOOT*!

HEY!

FAREWELL.

STOP NOW, OR WE'LL SHOOT!

IT WOULD BE *EASIER* IF YOU DID *NOT.*

ALAS.

HRRRRK!

KRAK

BRATTA BRATTA

BRATTA!

WHOLLY UNNECESSARY.

SSSZ

CRUNCH

UNGH!

AS I SAID...

FAREWELL.

BABA NKISU IS *DEAD.*

THEY BID HIM FAREWELL IN A FASHION ALMOST AT THE SCALE OF A *STATE FUNERAL.*

IT'S STUNNING TO BEHOLD.

THEY GRIEVE HIM LIKE...

...WELL, LIKE A *KING.*

THIS SHOULD BE A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION.

I DON'T FEEL VERY *CELEBRATORY.*

HM. THE ILONGAS ARE TAKING FULL ADVANTAGE OF THIS MOMENT, I SEE.

BABA NKISU WAS A *THORN* IN MY SIDE AND A *DAGGER* IN THE HEART OF THIS CITY.

BUT WHEN YOU *REMOVE* THE DAGGER WITH *HASTE...*

...BLOOD FLOWS FREELY.

I'VE DONE VERY LITTLE TO *SUTURE* THE *WOUND*.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS? THEY DIDN'T *PAY*?

NKISU PATRONS. KASINDA WANTS TO MAKE A POINT NOW THAT THE OLD MAN IS GONE. HE'S UP IN FLAMES, AND SO IS HIS *TERRITORY*.

WHO IS EVEN GOING TO *NOTICE*, WHAT WITH ALL THIS SMOKE TODAY--

CLANG

WHAT WAS--?

URK!

THIS...THIS LETS ME *FEEL*--SOMETHING. USE. MEANING.

BUT NEVERTHELESS...

I LACK *PURPOSE* HERE, N'YOBI.

YOU KNOW, WE CAN HANG OUT. YOU DON'T HAVE TO *BREAK INTO* MY OFFICE.

BABA NKISU IS *DEAD*. NOT ONLY DID I *FAIL* TO BRING HIM TO JUSTICE--I DO NOT EVEN UNDERSTAND WHAT *KILLED* HIM.

WHAT AM I DOING? AM I NO BETTER THAN A GLORIFIED *STREET ENFORCER?*

HAS IT *ALWAYS* BEEN THIS WAY? WERE MY *FATHER* AND *GRANDFATHER* SO UNAWARE OF WHAT GOES ON FAR FROM THE GOLDEN CITY?

AM I *PLAYACTING* AT *RELEVANCE?* DO MY PEOPLE *NEED* ME HERE? THERE IS A WHOLE *ECOSYSTEM* THAT I AM STILL SO FAR FROM UNDERSTANDING.

I...DON'T SUPPOSE YOU MEAN THESE AS *RHETORICAL* QUESTIONS, DO YOU?

NOT *REALLY.*

MM. THAT WOULD BE *EASIER.*

IT *WOULD.*

"TO BECOME WHAT ONE IS, ONE MUST NOT HAVE THE FAINTEST NOTION WHAT ONE IS: FORGETTING ONESELF, MISUNDERSTANDING ONESELF, MAKING ONESELF SMALLER, NARROWER, MEDIOCRE, BECOME REASON ITSELF."

NIETZSCHE.

INDEED. MY FATHER EDITED THIS VOLUME. HE CALLED NIETZSCHE A "TRAGICALLY SELF-SABOTAGING HERETIC." HE WAS HIS BIGGEST FAN!

IF ***MISUNDERSTANDING*** ONESELF IS THE PATH TO SELF-KNOWLEDGE, I AM WELL ON MY WAY.

T'CHALLA. YOU HAVE BEEN HERE FOR ***WEEKS.***

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ***BOOKSTORE?***

WHAT'S THAT GOT TO--?

FAVORITE PLACE TO GET PLANTAIN CHIPS?

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO--

YOU DON'T HAVE ***LEADS.*** YOU HAVE TIME. WHERE DO YOU GO WHEN YOU WANT TO THINK? WHERE DO YOU GO TO HEAR GOOD MUSIC?

YOU ***STALK*** THE CITY AS THE PANTHER. BITI REMAINS STRANGE TO YOU BECAUSE YOU APPROACH IT AS SOMEONE SEEKING TO ***REIGN.*** YOU ARE OBSERVING TO ***CONTROL.*** NOT OBSERVING TO ***KNOW.*** TO ***LEARN.***

AND YOU'VE CREATED THIS PERSONA, ***IZE.*** YOUR EVERYMAN. BUT WHAT DOES HE DO? HE GOES TO WORK AND GOES HOME. HE SEES NOTHING OF THE CITY.

ARE YOU SURE CHANGAMIRE IS THE ***ONLY*** PHILOSOPHER IN YOUR FAMILY?

YES. BUT I AM HIS ***SECOND*** FAVORITE TRAGICALLY SELF-SABOTAGING HERETIC.

AND WHAT IS THIS?

"YOUR LIST OF ASSIGNMENTS. OR SHOULD I SAY...AN ITINERARY FOR IZE'S NEXT DAY OFF."

– HEAR THE ECHO IN TERRAZA CLIFF

BITI FOREVER!

– WEDNESDAY KWAITO NIGHTS AT TJ'S TAVERN

– SUNDAY KEH-KEH SHOWCASE

– G'BETA TOURNAMENT IN M'TELI PARK

– MANGO CAKE AT THE KITU MARKET MIDNIGHT HARVEST

ALIINYA HAS LOST ALL SENSE OF REASON.

TRULY. ALL OF HER FATHER'S VIOLENCE, NONE OF HIS *STRATEGY.*

IS IT TRUE SHE TOOK OUT ALL THE GUARDS WHO WERE THERE THE NIGHT HE...?

SHE DID. *PERSONALLY!* SHE IS CLEANING HOUSE. BRINGING IN ALL NEW PEOPLE WHO WILL BE LOYAL TO *HER.* SAYS THE OLD GUARD IS FULL OF *SNAKES.*

THAT'S WHAT TAI TOLD ME. SAID SHE IS BEEFING UP, HIRING PEOPLE SO FAST THAT THERE'S BARELY TIME TO *VET* THEM. CONSTANT NEEDS, CONSTANT NEW FACES.

SHE WILL BE THE *DEATH* OF US.

INDEED. AND YOU HAVE *LOST,* JOZI, MY FRIEND.

NEVER DID *LIKE* THIS GAME.

BUSY NIGHT, EH, JOZI?

AYYY, THE *WEDDING CATERER* WITH THE *BRUCE LEE* MOVES! I DON'T THINK I'VE SEEN YOU AT TJ'S BEFORE!

I'M USUALLY JUST HERE ON WEDNESDAYS FOR *KWAITO* NIGHTS.

I'M A KWAITO FAN MYSELF!

CAN I TREAT YOU TO THIS ONE, *BROTHER?* BELATED THANKS FOR YOUR GOOD WORK AT THE BOSS'S FAMILY WEDDING.

I WILL NOT SAY NO TO THAT. I AM ACTUALLY LOW ON *CASH* THESE DAYS. LOOKING FOR THINGS TO DO, IF YOU HAPPEN TO NEED AN EXTRA HAND.

FUNNY YOU SHOULD *MENTION* THAT. I DO FIND MYSELF A LITTLE *SHORT-STAFFED.*

A FEW DAYS LATER...

I KNOW THAT N'YOBI'S *INTENTION* FOR MY "*HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT*" WAS *NOT* TO PICK UP NEW LEADS.

BUT IT HASN'T HURT.

YOU'RE NOT ON THE LIST.

ARE YOU *SURE?* CHECK AGAIN?

I'M VERY SURE. PLEASE STEP TO THE SIDE.

THAT *WORKED* ON THE *LAST* THREE GUYS AT THE DOOR.

GOOD WORK. WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH OUR LAST TWO ESTABLISHMENTS, TALK TO MY MEN ABOUT PAYMENT.

GOOD EVENING, MISS NKISU.

YOU KNOW WHO I *AM*.

IT WOULD BE A SHAMEFUL THING NOT TO RECOGNIZE ONE'S OWN *EMPLOYER*.

YOU WOULD BE SURPRISED. THOUGH YOU LOOK FAMILIAR...

AH--YOU WERE AT MY *BROTHER'S WEDDING*. DELIVERED SOME FOOD TO THE BRIDAL SUITE.

ONE OF MY *LAST* HAPPY MEMORIES WITH MY FATHER. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

MY NAME IS IZE, MISS.

IZE. IT IS HARD TO FIND *TRUSTWORTHY PEOPLE* IN BITI THESE DAYS, IZE. WOULD YOU AGREE?

I STRIVE TO BE *RELIABLE*, MISS NKISU. WHEN WE HAVE NOTHING ELSE IN THIS WORLD, WE BEAR OUR *REPUTATIONS* ON OUR BACKS.

SO WE DO.

KIMANI. CALL JOZI AND TELL HIM TO SUB IN ANOTHER BOUNCER FOR THIS EVENING. IZE WILL BE DRIVING ME FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE NIGHT.

CONSIDER IT *DONE*.

ARE YOU *OFFENDED* BY *VIOLENCE*, IZE?

I AM *NOT*, MISS.

YOU OUGHT TO BE. IT HAS TORN THIS CITY *ASUNDER*.

PERHAPS THERE ARE MOMENTS WHEN VIOLENCE IS *NECESSARY*.

PERHAPS. BUT WHO *DECIDES?*

MY *FATHER* LIVED A LIFE OF VIOLENCE. AND THUS HE SUFFERED A *VIOLENT DEATH* AT THE HANDS OF A *VIOLENT* DESPOT.

A DISGRACED KING, METING OUT HIS LITTLE *VENGEANCES*.

MY SISTER-IN-LAW KNOWS POWERFUL PEOPLE IN PARLIAMENT. WHEN I HAVE SUFFICIENT *EVIDENCE*, I PLAN TO TURN OVER THE *BLACK PANTHER* SO HE CAN *SUFFER* LIKE THE *CRIMINAL* HE IS.

IS IT STRANGE TO HEAR SOMEONE LIKE ME CHASTISE A CRIMINAL?

ADMITTEDLY, IT IS, MISS NKISU.

YES, WELL. THIS IS MY *FATHER'S* BUSINESS. I AM STILL A GUEST IN MY *FATHER'S HOUSE*.

SOMETIMES YOU ARE *BORN* INTO SOMETHING. YOU *INHERIT* IT.

BUT AS LONG AS YOU PLAY THE ROLE, IT REMAINS ALWAYS AN *INHERITANCE*. YOUR FATHER'S HEAVY VESTMENTS SLUNG OVER YOUR *SHOULDERS* LIKE A *CHILD* AT *PLAY*.

WE ARE HERE, MISS NKISU.

I'LL JUST BE A MINUTE.

OF COURSE. TAKE YOUR TIME, MISS.

YOUR FATHER MUST HAVE BEEN A VERY *LEARNED* MAN. SO MANY *DOCUMENTS*.

NO, JUST A BIT OF A *HOARDER*. HE VALUED EDUCATION, THOUGH. SENT ME TO HEKIMA SHULE TO STUDY COMPARATIVE LITERATURE.

DID I SAY A *BIT* OF A HOARDER? I TAKE THAT BACK.

I AM GOING TO BE HERE *ALL NIGHT*, I'M AFRAID. YOU ARE DISMISSED FOR NOW, IZE.

THANK YOU. GOOD NIGHT, MISS.

A DAY LATER...

THREE... TWO...AND...

NATIMA NGOZA. BETTER KNOW AS *BEISA*.

OH MY!

HEY!

I SHOULD PAY MORE *ATTENTION* TO WHERE I'M *GOING*.

I'M SURE YOU'VE GOT *IMPORTANT THINGS* ON YOUR *MIND*.

I'M SO SORRY. I'M SUCH A MESS.

NO, I'M SORRY.

YES, I *GOT* WHAT YOU *ASKED* FOR, ALEXEI. I'LL SEND IT OVER AS SOON AS I GET THE OTHER HALF OF YOUR PAYME--

CARTIER ST. CROIX

BABA NKISU

Nice pull! Good news. Comm? 11PM? T.

HOW DID HE...?

MM. THE OTHER HALF OF YOUR *PAYMENT*. YES. THANKS.

SO BABA WAS IN BUSINESS WITH *CARTIER ST. CROIX?* THE UBER-WEALTHY AMBASSADOR?

LOOKS THAT *WAY.* AND ACCORDING TO EVERYTHING I CAN DIG UP, NO ONE HAS SEEN *HIDE NOR HAIR* OF ST. CROIX IN WEEKS. MAYBE MONTHS.

ST. CROIX *HOLIDAY HOME.* MOUNTAIN CHALET ABOUT AN *HOUR* OUTSIDE THE CITY. FANCY A *VACATION,* BEISA?

YOU DUSTING OFF THE ROLLS?

I ACTUALLY THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE TO TAKE THE *TRAIN.*

THE NEXT DAY...

SPOOKY.

BUT MY *CONTACT* OUT HERE DID AN *ADVANCE SWEEP* FOR ME. WE SHOULD BE ALL GOOD ON *SECURITY*. I TOLD HIM I PLANNED ON STEALING SOME ANTIQUE *IVORY*.

THE ST. CROIX FAMILY HAS ANTIQUE IVORY?

THEY HAVE *IVORY-DEALER* ENERGY.

NO ONE HAS BEEN HERE IN A *LONG* TIME. HOW IS IT ON YOUR END? ANYTHING OF INTEREST?

THIS LOOKS PROMISING.

VERY PROMISING.

ST. CROIX NIKISU

EXCUSE ME.

MIND TELLING ME WHAT THE *HELL* YOU'RE DOING IN MY *HOUSE?*

MONET ST. CROIX.
GLOBAL SOPHISTICATE.
PHYSIOLOGICALLY ADVANCED
MUTANT. TELEPATH. GENIUS.

NEXT: T'CHALLA VS. M!

BITI BANTER

Hello! Assistant editor Michelle Marchese here. For all my fellow Monet St. Croix stans out there: you're welcome. She is the coolest, and I cannot express enough how excited I have been for this appearance since the outline stage of this story. The outline! Our beloved and incredible cover artist Taurin Clarke likewise said something along the lines of "M!!!!!!" when we discussed the cover of issue #8 with him, which you will see in two pages. Anyway, enough inside baseball--here's Eve, with smarter and more insightful responses to your letters!

Hi, Eve,

Huge congrats to you and all the team on the new volume, Reign at Dusk. Great story, characters, art, dialogue. Been a Black Panther fan since reading "Panther's Rage" in the seventies. It's great to still be enjoying the character's adventures over forty years later. Fantastic work, everyone!

Dom

Hey, Dom! Thanks so much. I really hoped this run would be suitably thrilling for longtime readers and newcomers alike, so it means a lot to hear from someone like you, who has been with T'Challa for so long, that you like what we're doing. Cheers, and thanks for taking the time to write.

Dear Eve,

First of all, let me thank you for bringing back the letters page. I love letters pages. They're awesome! It's great that you're taking the time to connect with readers in this way that is such a unique part of the proud comic-book tradition.

I have to admit that my initial response to the new BLACK PANTHER series was not altogether positive. I really liked John Ridley's run and thought that it ended far too quickly. The big shocker at the end of that tale was that T'Challa was sent into exile, so the last place where he should show up at the start of the new book was Wakanda—which is exactly where we found him. I felt that that decision took a lot of the impact from the previous series away, which made me somewhat reluctant to follow this new book. Well, I just read issue #4, so I'm still here. I found that there was also a lot to like about T'Challa's visit to Birnin T'Chaka. The more "grounded" feel of the story is great. There's nothing wrong with universe-shaking or world-breaking events, but how often can the universe shake and the world break? I prefer the more personal stories that really go to the heart and soul of the characters, and I have the feeling that we might just get that in your take on BLACK PANTHER. Looking forward to finding out if I'm right!

Sincerely,
Lars Meyer
Germany

What's up, Lars? Thanks, I love letters pages too! Long before my professional-writer dreams were fulfilled, my first-ever times seeing my name in print were when I wrote letters to the *Chicago Tribune* and *Highlights Magazine* as a kid. The *Tribune* had an article saying how bad comics are for kids, and I wrote in registering my dissent. Because I was a kid, they published it only with my first name and last initial to protect my privacy, and I brought it to school proudly to show off. One of my friends refused to believe that "Eve E., age 9" was me. I was so mad. "How many people named Eve do you know?!" I was incensed. Now you know my villain origin story.

Anyway, I hear you on the transition between runs. I think the question of how much to maintain the status quo from your predecessor is one of the hardest perennial quandaries we face. On the one hand, continuity and canon are one of the elements that make super-hero comics special. On the other hand, new creators jumping onto a title want to make their mark and offer something novel for readers who may not have found the preceding iteration to be their cup of tea. On the third hand that I just spontaneously grew for the purposes of making this point, we also have to balance the factors that comprise those core qualities that make a character who they are. In conversation with the esteemed editors, we decided that having T'Challa remain uncrowned, forced to be Black Panther as an underground vigilante on the run, far from his home city but at least still back in Wakanda, would give readers enough to hang their hats on. I'm so glad you stuck with us even though you weren't digging that choice at first. Thanks for reading and writing!

Thank you, Dr. Ewing and crew, for the breath of fresh air that is this current BLACK PANTHER run. New characters, intriguing storylines and a renewed focus on the titular character of T'Challa, the Black Panther. In a few issues, you have righted some of the wrongs in the depiction of T'Challa. Looking forward to seeing some of the supporting characters and rogues' gallery in future issues. Black Panther has a wealth of supporting characters, from Taku and Venomm to Salamander K'Ruel to Madam Slay. So many amazing characters! Keep writing amazing stories. SALUTE.

The Kimoyo Kid

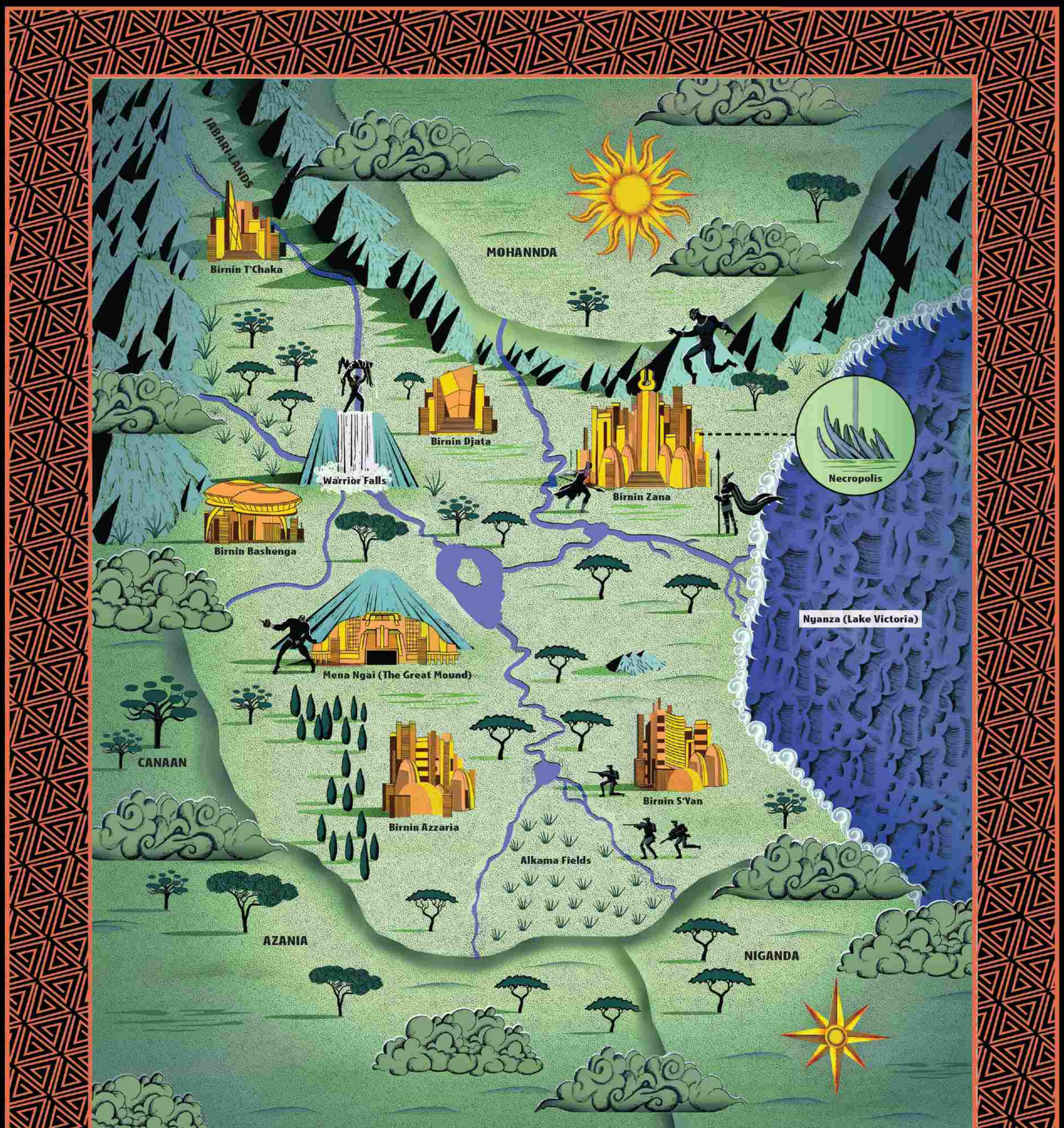
What's good, Kimoyo Kid? Thank you so much for this kind letter. It means a lot! And I think we all know that a hero is only as good as their villains. Agree with you that T'Challa has a pretty dope rogues' gallery. I also just think "Horatio" is a cool name, so that's a point for Venomm... Thanks for reading!

Warmly,
Eve

And for a chance to see your letter answered by Eve in a future issue, send them over to MHEROES@MARVEL.COM and mark your letters "OKAY TO PRINT"!

MAP OF WAKANDA

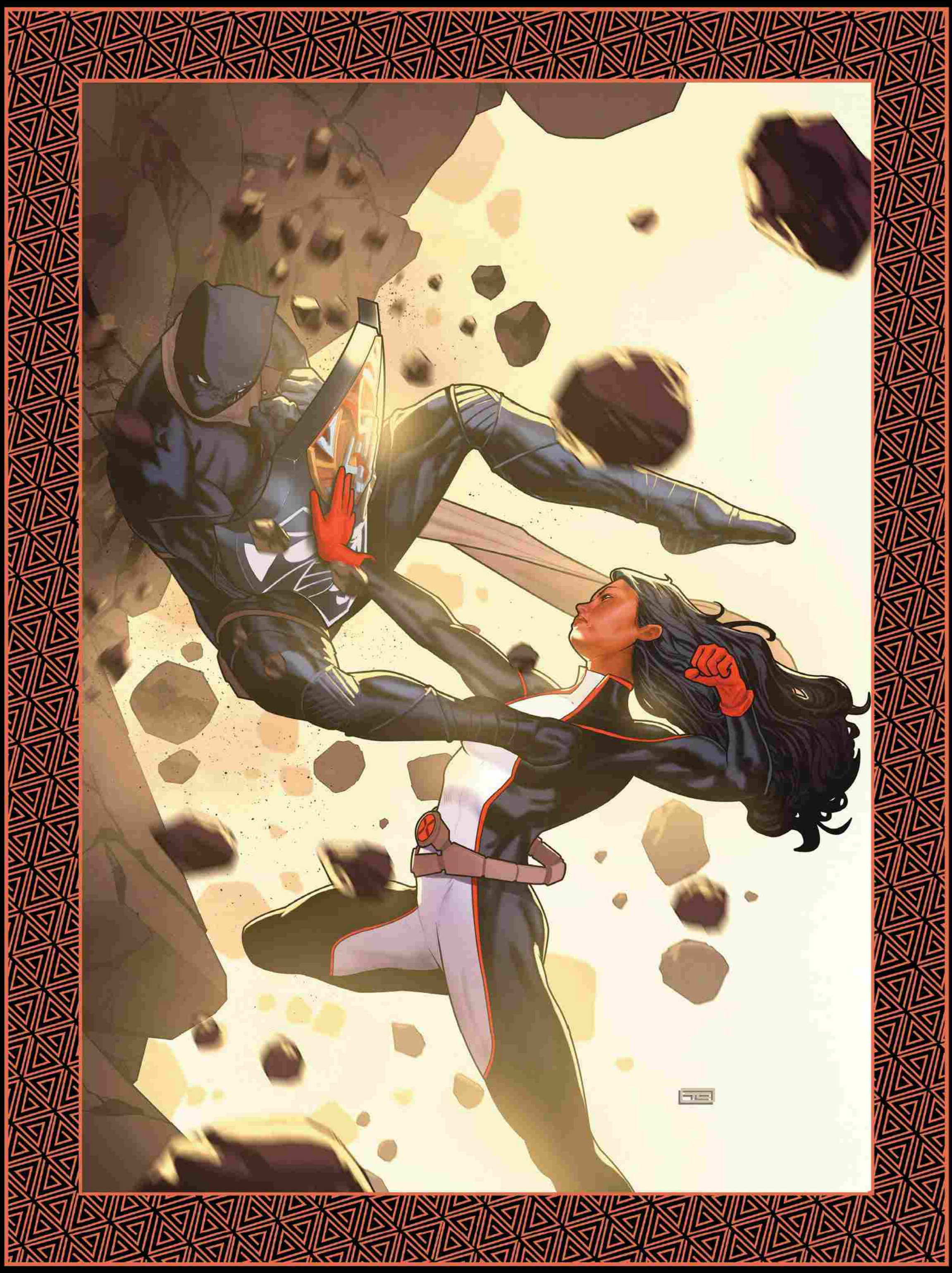
BY **ADAM SIMPSON**, AS PRESENTED IN **DK's MARVEL UNIVERSE: MAP BY MAP** (2021).



BIRNIN T'CHAKA AS IMAGINED BY EVE L. EWING AND CHRIS ALLEN:

Far from the Golden City, distant from the seat of power, at the foot of the mountainous Jabari-Lands, is the city of Birnin T'Chaka. No one is poor in Wakanda. This is a country that provides for the basic needs of all its people. Everyone has housing and food--the essentials. But in Birnin T'Chaka, some people have only those essentials. Nothing of flash, nothing too special or fancy. Some of this is by necessity--folks just getting by--and some of it is cultural. We're in the rust belt of Wakanda, a city built meters deep into the infrastructure of its now-abandoned mines. People in Biti (Biti is what locals call Birnin T'Chaka, as in "B.T.") pride themselves on choosing substance over style. Of course, as with all things, this morphs into being its own kind of style.

NEXT ISSUE:



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